

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Nguyen and Supervisory Examiner Loke for their courtesy in granting an interview to discuss the present application. Several claims were discussed, as was reference Rostoker, particularly FIG. 75. It was agreed that Rostoker did not teach or suggest all of the features of claims 3, 4, 19, 28, and 29. The amendment filed herewith places claims 3 and 28 in independent form, including all of the features of their independent claim and any intermediate claims. Claim 4 depends from claim 3, and claim 19 depends from claim 4. Claim 29 depends from claim 28. Applicant thus submits that these claims are allowable.

The remaining pending claims are assumed to remain rejected as anticipated or obvious in view of Rostoker. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include features of now-cancelled (without prejudice) claim 2, and to more clearly define, among other things, that the Y connecting each cluster has a node and three interconnects, each of the three interconnects having an end that connects the node to respective ones of the cells within a cluster. Claim 27 has been amended similarly and to incorporate features of now-cancelled (without prejudice) claim 26. Claim 8 has also been cancelled, without prejudice. As applied to the claims as amended, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that Rostoker fails to teach or suggest at least that a Y connecting each cluster has a node and three interconnects, each of the three interconnects having an end that connects the node to respective ones of the cells within a cluster, and thus claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be allowable over

Rostoker. As can be seen clearly in FIG. 75 of Rostoker, the node shown in the upper left of the figure (discussed during the interview referenced above) is connected by three interconnects, where an end of each (2102, 2100, and the first interconnection of the leg 2098 between the node and the adjacent cell) connects the node to each of three cells, but because the node itself is part of a fourth cell, these three interconnects connect a cluster of four cells, not three. According to amended claim 1, an intermediate portion of leg 2098 would not be considered one of the three interconnects, because it would not be an end (the end of the interconnection for the first part of leg 2098 would be the node of the adjacent cell). For similar reasons, claim 27 and its dependent claims are believed to be allowable over Rostoker as well.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,
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